



4 FOOD PACKAGE/DRAFT ISSUANCE

Effective: 3/1/98

4.19 Formulas and Medical Foods – Needs Beyond WIC

Revised 4/1/03

POLICY: Requests for formulas or medical foods that exceed the quantity provided by WIC, or that are not approved by WIC shall be referred to the appropriate source. When a WIC participant is also receiving Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT), the WIC nutritionist/RD will collaborate with the MNT RD to assure continuity of nutrition care.

BACKGROUND: The Wisconsin WIC Program approves formulas and medical foods based on the Federal WIC Regulations, availability of the products in the retail market, needs of the participants, and appropriateness of provision by WIC. Maximum monthly quantities are specified in the Federal WIC Regulations (See Policy 4.21). Thus, the following situations are examples in which WIC cannot meet a participant's formula or medical food needs:

- The needed quantity of a WIC-approved product is greater than what WIC is allowed by Regulations to provide.
- The requested product is not allowed by the Federal WIC Regulations. These include but are not limited to oral rehydration fluids or electrolyte solutions, products for hospital use, parenteral or intravenous hyperalimentation nutrition products, sports or breakfast drinks, over-the-counter weight control/loss beverages, soy-based or rice-based beverages or drinks, vitamin or mineral supplements, and enzymes.
- The Wisconsin WIC Program does not approve the requested product. Wisconsin WIC does not provide highly specialized products that require ongoing Medical Nutrition Therapy and access to medical records. These products are more appropriately covered by Medicaid, with ongoing medical supervision and physician/pharmacist coordination, or provided by the Congenital Disorders Program clinics (e.g., metabolic clinics at Waisman Center in Madison, Marshfield Clinic, and Children's Hospital in Milwaukee; and Cystic Fibrosis clinics at UW-Hospital and Clinics in Madison, Marshfield Clinic, Children's Hospital in Milwaukee, and St. Vincent's in Green Bay).
- The requested product is not available in the retail market (e.g., most low birth weight formulas, and 4 and 8 oz nurser bottles that are for hospital use only).
- A child needs some formula or medical food to supplement a regular diet, and benefits most by receiving a regular child food package from WIC and the formula or medical food from another source (e.g., Medicaid - if the formula is medically necessary - or self-pay).
- Comprehensive health care needs are being met elsewhere (e.g., a family is eligible for WIC and WIC provides the needed formula or medical food, but the family chooses to



obtain all their needed services, including requesting MA coverage for a medically-necessary formula or medical food and Medical Nutrition Therapy as needed, through their MA HMO).

PROCEDURE:

A. SPECIAL FORMULAS AND MEDICAL FOODS

1. When a participant needs a special formula or medical food that is not WIC-approved: Refer requests for prescribed medically-necessary special formulas or medical foods back to the applicant/participant's physician. Most WIC applicants/participants are on or eligible for Medicaid, which may cover prescribed medically-necessary special formulas or medical foods. For more information, health care providers may contact the Medicaid Program's EDS provider services (1/800/947-9627 or 608/221-9883). The health care provider may need to obtain formula samples from a formula company representative until the pharmacy can order and receive the product.
2. When a participant needs a special formula or medical food that is WIC-approved, but the quantity needed is greater than WIC's monthly maximum: Provide the appropriate WIC special needs package and refer back to the physician for additional medically-necessary formula or medical food (see Part 1 above).
3. When a participant needs a special formula or medical food that is WIC-approved, but consumes mostly a regular diet and needs only some special formula or medical food: Provide a regular package and refer requests for medically-necessary formula or medical food back to the physician (see Part 1 above) or recommend purchasing the product on their own. (Note: An alternative may be for WIC to alternate formula and regular packages.)
4. When an applicant fails to qualify for WIC or other private or public programs: Mead Johnson Nutritionals considers providing a complimentary shipment of special formulas at a reduced price, based on financial need. Products available through this "Helping Hand" program (per 6/98 correspondence) include Nutramigen powder, Pregestimil powder, EnfaCare, Enfamil Human Milk Fortifier, Enfamil Premature Formula, Portagen, and Mead Johnson's 23 special metabolic formulas. Contact your local Mead Johnson representative and provide the following information: child and parent(s)' names, address, telephone number, date of birth, special formula needed, diagnosis, and the physician's name, address, and telephone number. The representative will follow-through on the request.



B. STANDARD FORMULAS

1. When the participant needs a standard formula that is WIC-approved, but the quantity is greater than what WIC can provide: Provide a standard WIC formula package and refer to a food pantry or recommend purchasing additional formula on their own.
2. When the participant needs a standard formula that is WIC-approved, but consumes mostly a regular diet and needs only some formula: Provide a regular WIC package and refer to a food pantry or recommend purchasing the formula on their own. (Note: An alternative may be for WIC to alternate formula and regular food packages.)